

## United States Postal Service

## § 776.5

(b) These procedures implement Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 and are adopted under the Postal Reorganization Act rather than the statutes listed in paragraph (a) of this section, to the extent these statutes do not apply to the Postal Service under 39 U.S.C. 410(a).

(c) These procedures provide guidance:

(1) To avoid direct or indirect, long or short term adverse impact on floodplains and wetlands;

(2) To reduce the risk of flood loss;

(3) To minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health, and welfare;

(4) To restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains;

(5) To minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands;

(6) To preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands; and

(7) To avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development.

(d) These procedures are general in nature. Postal Service Handbook RE-6, *Environmental Procedures*, provides detailed procedures for implementing these executive orders.

### § 776.2 Responsibility.

The Assistant Postmaster General, Facilities Department, is responsible for overall compliance with these procedures.

[46 FR 22366, Apr. 17, 1981, as amended at 51 FR 40170, Nov. 5, 1986]

### § 776.3 Scope.

These procedures are applicable to every proposed postal facility project which involves:

(a) New construction, for ownership or lease;

(b) Existing buildings, owned or leased, except the acquisition of existing leased facilities when no substantial external change in the configuration of the facility will occur;

(c) Modernization or improvement of an existing facility where the external configuration of the building or the use of the facility is changed substantially and significantly;

(d) Disposal or lease of owned, excess property;

(e) Proposals for granting a property easement or right-of-way to non-federal public or private parties.

### § 776.4 Definitions.

(a) A *floodplain*, for the purposes of these procedures, is the area in which a flood has a one percent chance of occurrence in any given year (also known as a 100-year flood).

(b) A *wetland*, for the purposes of these procedures, is an area that is inundated by surface or ground water frequently enough to support a prevalence of vegetable or aquatic life requiring saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction.

[46 FR 22366, Apr. 17, 1981, as amended at 55 FR 10455, Mar. 21, 1990]

### § 776.5 New construction.

(a) *Construction in floodplain/wetland.* During the evaluation of contending sites for a proposed project, information concerning impacts on wetlands and floodplains will be collected and considered. If use of a site would require construction in a floodplain or wetland, the site may be considered only when there is no practicable alternative site.

(b) *Floodplain/Wetland Information.* Floodplain and wetland information must be compiled and considered throughout the facility planning process. If a proposed action will occur in or impact a floodplain or wetland site, specific floodplain or wetland information must be developed. As a minimum, the information should:

(1) Document whether the proposed action will directly or indirectly support floodplain development.

(2) Document the impacts a proposed action would have on the floodplain or wetland, including positive and negative; concentrated and dispersed; short-term and long-term.

(3) Document the flood hazard and risk to lives and property.

(4) Present the natural and beneficial floodplain values.

(5) Present measures which will preserve the floodplain, minimize harm to it, or restore it. Minimization of harm is assessed in terms of: